

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND Claims 1-5 and 15 as follows.

Please ADD Claims 16 and 17 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reading a plurality of film originals, each being mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and displaying [[them]] the plurality of film originals on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the method comprising:

an image reading step of reading each of the plurality of film images ~~of the~~ originals placed on the original support, identifying a number of frames of film originals simultaneously present on the original support, and cutting out image areas for each of the frames of [[the]] film originals to generate a plurality of image signals;

a placement orientation detection step of detecting a placement orientation for each of the ~~original~~ film originals as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of an [[the]] image signal, corresponding to each film original, generated in said image reading step;

an image signal rotation step of rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the corresponding film original detected in said placement orientation detection step is different from the landscape placement; and

a read image signal display step of simultaneously displaying the plurality of [[read]] image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape placement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a display orientation setting step of setting ~~[[said]]~~ a predetermined orientation.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
a second image signal rotation step of rotating each of the plurality of image signals by a predetermined angle irrespective of the placement orientation detected in said placement orientation detection step; and

a second display orientation setting step of setting whether the plurality of read image signals ~~images~~ are to be displayed in the orientation aligned with the predetermined orientation or ~~the images~~ rotated by said second image signal rotation step ~~are to be displayed~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said second display orientation setting step optionally sets to display the plurality of read image signals ~~image~~ in the orientation detected in the placement orientation detection step.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein said second image signal rotation step further includes, upon rotating each of the plurality of read image signal ~~signals~~ by the predetermined angle, correcting its inclination with respect to a vertical or horizontal direction.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in said image reading step, a plurality of originals placed on the original support are read and the other steps are performed on an image signal obtained from each of the originals individually.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for reading a plurality of film originals, each being mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus and for displaying [[them]] the plurality of film originals on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the system comprising:

an image reader for reading each of the ~~images of the~~ plurality of film originals placed on the original support, identifying a number of frames of film originals simultaneously present on the original support, and for cutting out image areas for each of the frames of the film originals to generate a plurality of image signals;

a placement orientation detector for detecting ~~a~~ placement orientation for each of the ~~original film originals~~ as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of [[the]] an image signal corresponding to each film original generated by said image reader;

an image signal rotator for rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the corresponding film original detected by said placement orientation detector is different from the landscape placement; and

a read image signal display for simultaneously displaying the plurality of [[read]] image

signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape displacement and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of image signals displayed on the monitor unit are images of the plurality of film originals.

17. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of image signals displayed on the monitor unit are images of the plurality of film originals.